

**Practice Placement Volunteer**

**Information**

Cruse Scotland is seeking to recruit enthusiastic and compassionate placement student volunteers to support clients across the country.

Applicants should be undertaking an advanced level of counselling skills/training at SQCF level 9/10/11,

BACP, COSCA or other equivalent validated organisations. You must also have your ‘Readiness to Practice’

before applying. **We will not accept applications if your ‘Readiness to Practice’ is not already in place**. Please

note we are not currently recruiting HND or DipHE level courses.

**Training**

Our two-day Grief and Loss training course is delivered before taking up a placement with us. **We require all applicants to attend both training days which will be assessed.** There will also be a two-hour local induction for those who successfully complete the training.

The training will be delivered via Zoom therefore you must have access to a PC/laptop/tablet for both training days. The format of the course is a mix of trainer led delivery, skills practice and eLearning. You should be prepared to engage in role play as part of this learning.

**Ongoing Training**

As with all roles in Cruse Scotland, we are committed to the ongoing learning and development of all our volunteers. You can expect to receive Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities throughout the year. The CPD training has various topics relevant to your role and the clients you support.

**Support and Supervision**

Our Area Managers oversee the day to day running of the service, along with a local co-ordinator who will support you during your placement with us. You will have access to free group supervision every month which is optional and regular volunteer meetings where you can meet other members of the team. You bring your own personal supervisor to your practice placement.

**Opening Hours**

Client support happens during office & Helpline hours. Our local offices have various opening hours. You will be informed of these during your local induction. Our helpline is open weekdays from

9am – 8pm and weekends from 10am – 2pm.

**Location**

Our counselling team are office and home based depending on the type of support they are providing. We also use venues outside of our local offices, again this will be explained during your local induction. When volunteering from home we need you to guarantee a private space where you will not be interrupted during your sessions.

 **About you**

The skills and attributes we need from our Practice Placement volunteers are:

* You have your readiness to practice
* Happy to work within time limited sessions and you have a willingness to work within a Person-Centred approach alongside your training course modality
* That you are organised, dedicated, reliable and communicates well in a professional setting
* Understanding of the importance of data protection, confidentiality and protecting people’s personal details
* To be supportive and friendly
* Non-judgemental of the person’s life, views, choices, and family
* Willingness to engage in the wider Cruse Scotland community
* A commitment to working with a minimum of two clients per week
* Willingness to provide phone, online and face to face support. We will do our best to give you face to face clients if this is required by your course provider, but this is dependent on client demand as we offer a hybrid service
* A commitment of one year – but we would like you to stay longer!

**What a placement with Cruse Scotland will give you**

* Experience working with clients from all walks of life and obtaining insight, skills and knowledge

 with the key issues that affect clients dealing with bereavements

* Free online monthly group supervision with one of our in-house core supervisors
* Robust development of counselling skills, and expertise in counselling bereaved people
* Experience of working with time limited sessions (6 sessions)
* Invaluable experience towards your counselling career
* Full training and induction, as well as access to our eLearning resources. A varied CPD programme throughout the year. Support from our local area teams, including volunteer meetings (in-person & online) and a yearly Volunteer Conference (in-person)

**What we can’t offer you**

* Placement Supervision – you bring your own Supervisor to cover your client hours
* Guaranteed 100% client face to face sessions. We are led by client requests which means that there will be a mix of phone, online and face to face sessions
* We allow one face to face recording per client, with the client’s permission. We cannot support the recording of any more sessions than this
* We don’t currently support HND or DipHE students with placement opportunities

**Next Steps**

If you like the sound of what we can offer you here at Cruse Scotland and you have all the necessary attributes that we are looking for please complete our application form that you will find in our practice placement page on our website:

<https://www.crusescotland.org.uk/volunteer/current-volunteer-opportunities/>

**We look forward to hearing from you**